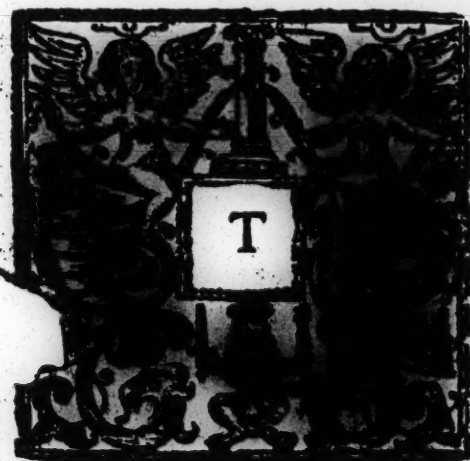




A LETTER FROM HIS MAJESTY
TO THE
SPEAKER OF THE COMMONS
Assembled in PARLIAMENT.
WITH HIS
MAJESTIES DECLARATION
ENCLOSED.

Read in the House of Commons assembled in Parliament, Tuesday MAY, 1. 1660.

CHARLES R.



Rusty and Wel-beloved, We Greet you well. In these great and insupportable afflictions and calamities under which the poor Nation hath been so long exercised, and by which it is so near exhausted; We cannot think of a more Naturall and proper Remedy, than to resort to those for Counsel and Advise, who have seen and observed the first beginning of our Miseries, the progress from bad to worse, and the mistakes and mis-understandings which have produced and contributed to inconveniences which were not intended: and after so many Revolutions, and the observation of what hath attended them, are now trusted by Our good Subjects to repair the Breaches which are made, and to provide proper Remedies for those Evils, and for the lasting Peace, Happiness and Security of the Kingdom.

We do assure you upon our Royall word, that none of our Predecessours have had a greater esteem of Parliaments, than We have, in our judgment, as well as from our obligation; We do beleeve them to be so vital a part of the constitution of the Kingdom, and so necessary for the Government of it, that We well know, neither Prince, nor people can be in any tolerable degree happy without them; and therefore you may be confident, that we shall alwayes look upon their Counsels as the best We can receive, and shall be as tender of their Priviledges, and as carefull to preserve and protect them, as of that which is most near to Our self, and most necessary for Our own preservation.

And as this is our opinion of Parliaments, that their Authority is most necessary for the Government of the Kingdom, So we are most confident, that you beleeve, and find that the preservation of the Kings Authority is as necessary for the preservation of Parliaments; and that it is not the name, but the right constitution of them, which can prepare, and apply proper remedies for those Evils, which are grievous to the People, and which can thereby establish their peace and security. And therefore we have not the least doubt, but that you will be as tender in, and as jealous of, any thing that may infringe Our Honour, or impaire Our Authority, as of your own Liberty and Property, which is best preserved, by preserving the other.

How far We have trusted you in this great affair, and how much it is in your power to restore the Nation to all that it hath lost, and to redeem it from any infamy it hath undergone, and to make King and People as happy as they ought to be, you will find by our inclosed Declaration (a Copy of which we have likewise sent to the House of Peers) and you will easily believe, that We would not voluntarily, and of Our Self have reposed so great a Trust in you, but upon an entire confidence, that you will not abuse it, and that you will proceed in such a manner, and with such due consideration of us, who have trusted you, that we shall not be ashamed of declyning other assistance (which we have assurance of) and repairing to you for more natural and proper Remedies, for the Evils we would be freed from; nor sorry that we have bound up our own Interest so intirely, with that of our Subjects, as that we refer it to the same persons to take care of us, who are trusted to provide for them. We look upon you as wise and dispassionate men, and good Patriots, who will raise up those Banks & Fences which have been cast down, and who will most reasonably hope the same prosperity will again spring from those Roots, from which it hath heretofore, and always grown; nor can we apprehend that you will propose any thing to us, or expect any thing from us, but what we are as ready to give, as you to receive. If you desire the advancement and propagation of the Protestant Religion, we have by our constant profession and practice of it, given sufficient Testimony to the world, That neither the unkindness of those of the same faith towards us, nor the civilities and obligations from those of a contrary profession (of both which we have had abundant Evidence) could in the least degree trouble us, or make us swerve from it; and nothing can be proposed to manifest our zeal and affection for it, to which we will not readily consent. And we hope in due time, our self to propose somewhat to you for the propagation of it, that will satisfie the world, that we have always made it both our Care, and our Study; and have enough observed what is most like to bring disadvantage to it. If you desire security for those, who in these calamitous times, either wilfully or weakly have transgressed those bounds which were prescribed, and have invaded each others Rights; We have left to you to provide for their Security and Indempnity, and in such a way as you shall think Just and Reasonable, and by a just computation of what men have done and suffered, as near as is possible, to take care that all men be satisfied, which is the surest way to suppress, and extirpate all such uncharitableness and animosity as might hereafter shake, and threaten that peace which for the present, might seem established. If there be a crying sin, for which the Nation may be involved in the Infamy that attends it, we cannot doubt but that you will be as solicitous to redeem and vindicate the Nation from that guilt and Infamy, as we can be. If you desire, that reverence and obedience may be payed to the fundamentall Laws of the Land, and that Justice may be equally and impartially administred to all men; It is that which we desire to be sworn to our self, and that all persons in Power and Authority should be so too. In a word, there is nothing that you can propose, that may make the Kingdom happy, which we will not contend with you to compass; and upon this confidence and assurance, We have thought fit to send you this Declaration, that you may, as much as is possible, at this distance, see our heart, which when God shall bring us nearer together (as we hope he will do shortly) will appear to you very agreeable to what we have professed, and we hope that we have made that right Christian use of our affliction, and that the observation and experience we have had in other Countries, hath been such, as that We, and we hope all our Subjects shall be the better for what we have seen and suffered. We shall add no more but our prayers to Almighty God, That he will so blesse your Councils, and direct your Endeavours, that his Glory and Worship may be provided for, and the Peace, Honour, and Happiness of the Nation may be established upon those Foundations which can best support it; and so we bid you farewell.

Given at our Court at Breda this 4. day of April, 1660. in the twelfth year of our Reign.

Superscribed

To our Trusty and well-beloved the Speaker of the House of Commons.